A hush fell over the audience as there was something special to see...

Click slide image for more!

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As of this writing (March 30), I do not have any contributions for the next issue of the Gazette. If you are doing some magic lantern research, please consider submitting an article. If you have interesting stories to tell about finding magic lanterns in antique shops, consider writing them up. Long or short articles that enhance our understanding of magic lanterns are welcome. Profusely illustrated pieces are especially desirable.

Kentwood D. Wells
Editor, The Magic Lantern Gazette
kentwood.wells@uconn.edu

From: Richard Teel
richteel@teelsys.com

I have a poster from my Great Grandfather. Professor Oliver P. Teel. I am interested in finding out a bit more about what a show may have looked like that he would have put on. Do you know of any videos or shows in the Northern Virginia area?

If you are interested, I can email a scanned copy of my Great Grandfather’s poster.

Thanks,
Richard Teel

From David Evans

Thanks Rich. A fine poster. Not all that many around these days in good shape like yours. Do you have any biographical information about your grandfather? Did he operate in the Northern Virginia area? We feel it is good to record as much information as possible about the old lanternists whilst it is still available. We could publish it in our monthly E-Publication, which goes to all members, with your permission.

Regards and thanks.
David
Delineascope & Glass Slides

I am sending pictures of the Delineascope, slides & props used in this USO show. I have looked at some of the slides and there are a few Scott & Van Altena color slides, Dewitt C. Wheeler Inc. slides, Chicago Projection Company, The Van Altin Co., Charles A. Calehuff & National Studios.

Some of the slides are in horrible condition and others look really good, however none have been carefully stored and the boxes are musty and dirty. As I said in my previous e-mail, this is history and I would love this to go to someone or somewhere it will be appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance,
Many Blessings,
Pam Stelly
This program is actually one of our new education programs that will be rolled out to our visiting schools this coming semester. The event itself is (the only) opportunity we’ll have/make to present this new program to a grown-up audience. While we’re advertising it in our printed program and online, our target audience are local teachers as a PD opportunity.

The program was written by my team (our education presenters, all of whom are qualified teachers) along with a PhD student from the ANU Science/Questacon Science Circus group. It was actually her final year assignment, re-written to better hit points on the yrs 5 and 6 science curriculum.

It is a bit a catch-all of the physics and chemistry of film, from the physics of vision and vision manipulation from the early days of glass lanterns to contemporary digital cinema, and then through the chemistry of physical film.

The one sentence in our book and on the website barely does all of that justice, but you know what happens when the Comms people take over and try and polish something up to sell it to a general audience.

We already have an education program that looks at the evolution of audio technology, but that was a bit science-lite, and this one will be quite meaty.

Jenny Gall spent a bit of time with our guys as they wrote this program, and yes, the magic lantern is definitely a highlight. It is important of course for us to break up the learning so it isn’t all just being talked at, so there is an opportunity for some hands-on lantern demonstration.

David, perhaps when you are next up this way we could find a session you could sit in on.

Cris Kennedy
Manager Education and Engagement
Community Engagement Team

From Cris Kennedy
Also referred by David Donaldson


British M L Society Convention in April 28-30, 2017

The (British) Magic Lantern Society is holding a Convention in Birmingham, England from Friday April 28th until Sunday 30th. There will be presenters and showmen from all over Europe and it will be a great opportunity to visit old friends and make new ones. These events are always instructive, entertaining and well worth attending if you possibly can.

If you have any questions please contact Jeremy at his email address just below:

To: “jeremy brooker”
jbrooker@hotmail.com

26th International Panorama Conference

Queens Museum, New York, USA
The International Panorama Council is pleased to announce that our 26th IPC Conference will take place at the Queens Museum in New York, USA from September 29th - October 1st, 2017 with a Post Conference tour in New York City on October 2nd, 2017
From Les Jones
lesjones.covershots@gmail.com
Toronto
Photographic Historical Society of Canada

Many thanks for forwarding the Newsletter and especially for your extensive listing of my slides for sale. I certainly wasn’t expecting two whole pages - that was very generous of you - but also enjoyed reading it. Have already received an enquiry - advertising works!.

On a related subject, and being the Programme Chair, for the Photographic Historical Society of Canada, I would like to extend an invitation to your members to attend any of our Talks (3rd Wednesday of most months) at the North York Civic Centre in Toronto. Even better, if anyone would like to make a 15-75 minute presentation on some aspect of Lantern Slides I would be delighted to arrange it. Lindsay Lambert has presented several times and the membership was most receptive.

Regards
Les
416 691 1555

UPCOMING PROGRAMME

APRIL 19 AGM
SHOOTING UNDER PRESSURE – Press photographers Boris Spremo, Robert Lansdale & FRIENDS discuss their equipment & escapades

MAY 17
EDWIN HAYNES - A Photographer’s Life

JUNE 21
SHOW & TELL – Bring something of significance to Canada’s photographic history.

CELEBRATE CANADA’S BIRTHDAY: 150 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHY IN CANADA

TBA: SPECIAL PRESENTATION: THE FAMILY CAMERA EXHIBITION – R.O.M. – 7pm

Magic Lantern Society of US and Canada 2018 Convention to be held in Victoria, BC

We are excited to announce that Victoria, BC has been chosen for the 2018 Convention and we have accepted David and Lesley’s gracious offer to be hosts. The Evans are continuing their planning efforts effective immediately. The Society received 44 responses to the convention location survey and the results were a exact tie of 22-22 in preference of location. The officers decided to select Victoria based on past precedent of rotation of conventions between Western, Eastern and Central locations and the long-standing offer of the Evan’s to host a convention for over eight years. Thanks to Jean-Pierre Sirois-Trahan for his kind offer to host in Quebec.
A Set of Slides That Require Quiet Pondering and a Search for Their True Meaning

An Extremely Rare Set of Slides
From the collection of Larry Cederblom

Really!

Really!

…or Maybe not!

And the colorist was thinking... darn I’m out of white!

Now that’s harsh punishment!

Easy to see why!
From Suzanne Wray

Hi,

Jeff Richman, the historian of Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, just posted the attached, about a collection of magic lantern slides he donated to Green-Wood. It sounds as though we’ll soon be able to see these on line. Green-Wood was one of the first “rural” cemeteries in the country and is a wonderful place to visit.

Suzanne Wray

By Jeff Richman

I enjoy collecting. And, as a person fascinated by our history, one of the things I like to collect is photographs of 19th century New York City. Such photographs help us understand a world both different from ours, but one that has profoundly affected our own world. They give us prospective on the human condition–what has changed, what remains the same, over time.

These slides feature people, buildings, street views, and more. What is very special about them is their clarity: with a magnifier, it is possible to see great details, whether a mustache on a face or the lettering on a sign.

Recently, Fiora Watts, an archival studies student at Pratt, working on her masters, processed this collection.

See her comments and site http://magiclanterns.weebly.com/ about the documenting and preservation of this collection.


Be sure to check out both sites as there is some great information about history and lantern slides!
From: Phil Pattison
ppattison24@gmail.com

I have a Magic lantern that was my Moms when she was a little girl. There is a piece of newspaper in the box used for packing that has a date 1935. It appears that it was converted to electricity at some point but i’m not sure. There are 16 slides. 6 have EP on them. There 10 don’t have any markings on them. Could you tell me what I have and is there any value in it. Thank you for your time.
Sincerely
Phil Pattison
!-610-346-6277

From Kentwood Wells

Thanks for your message. Your lantern looks like a couple in my collection that were exported from Germany to the US with the name Jung Amerika. I am not sure of the maker, but it almost certainly was made in Nuremberg, which was the center of German toy magic lantern production. It could date from anywhere between 1880 and 1910; the electrification happened later.

The orange-bordered E.P. slides were made by Ernst Plank, the most prolific German manufacturer of lanterns and slides, but the lantern was not. The pink slides are from a different maker and may have come with the lantern. These slides are very common and worth a couple of dollars each. The lantern probably would get $50-$100 on Ebay, depending on who is bidding that day. It seems to be in good condition, but is not a choice collector’s item. It probably cost a dollar or two when new. These items may have more sentimental value as family pieces.

From Eric Stott
estott@localnet.com

If anyone has a Marcy Sciopticon with the removable legs for the box, I would like some details on the dimensions of the legs and how they are attached.

Eric Stott,
Albany NY

Information about Marcy Removable Legs

Remind the members that there is a Facebook group for the Society, besides the official society page?

https://www.facebook.com/groups/407347156096502/

There must be SOME members who use Facebook......

Eric Stott
Need Help Researching

From Bill Durette
durette@verizon.net

I have Japanese slides which I have been researching online but I cannot find any comparables. Mine are on glass in wood frames, panoramas and slide slides, all hand painted. Based on their construction and the graphic composition my guess is they were made in 1850 plus or minus 20 years. I have 40 slides altogether. If you know of anyone who has similar slides I would be grateful to know who that might be, or any other recommendations for research would be appreciated.

Thank you,
Bill Durette

From Tom Turner
tom@tomturnerporcelain.com

I have 394 pounds of Magic Lantern slides that I would like to sell. They came out of a College Art History dept back in the 90’s. I have not viewed them and would like to sell them. At 9 slides per pound I figure there is approximately 3546 slides. They measure 3 1/4 x 3 7/8ths inches. Subject matter is Art and Architecture. If someone in the Asheville, NC area would like to see them, they can email me or call and we’ll make an appointment. Thank you very much for your time and advice.

Tom

From David Evans
Dear Tom

Thank you for your enquiry. It is not often that slides are sold by the pound! Where are you located? Any potential purchaser would have to consider shipping costs etc.

We can put your request in our monthly E-Publication, which goes to all our members, and it is quite possible that a member local to you could be interested in viewing them. Would that be possible?

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada
From Elizabeth Hartrick

Members of the Magic Lantern Society of USA & Canada may be interested to know that my book will at last see the light of day in early April published by Australian Scholarly Publishing http://www.scholarly.info/book/546/

It’s landscape format 27 cm x 20 cm, soft-cover, 200 pages, plenty of black and white illustrations and with a 16 page colour section.

Obviously it is regional in focus, but because it represents a survey of magic lantern practice across 60 years and the heyday of the medium, I am sure it will also be of wider value

There will be copies available at the Magic Lantern UK convention in April 2017 and it can be pre-ordered through the publisher’s website http://www.scholarly.info/cart/buy/511/.

Or contact me for any further information.

Many thanks for your interest and support

Kind regards
Elizabeth Hartrick

About the Author

Elizabeth Hartrick is an art historian whose interest in nineteenth century popular visual culture, and sense of the strong bond between Australia and New Zealand, led her to research the social and cultural history of the magic lantern slide projector in the Australasian colonies. Elizabeth trained as an art historian at the School of Fine Arts, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, and as a secondary school teacher, before going on to teach courses in the fields of colonial art and women artists in the Art History Department at Victoria University of Wellington. She completed her doctoral thesis through the Australian Centre at the University of Melbourne and has published articles and presented conference papers on her research since that time. In 2012, she co-convened the Second Biennial Magic Lantern Society convention in Melbourne and participated in the Projected Image Heritage Symposium at the Australian National University. She is contributing to “Heritage in the limelight: the magic lantern in Australia and the world” an Australian Research Council project led Dr Martyn Jolly at Australian National University. Elizabeth is an Associate Fellow of the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies at the University of Melbourne. She currently works as a researcher in support of the University’s philanthropic fundraising campaign.

In a world awash with visual technologies, the curiously named magic lantern – the optical lantern or projector – and its fragile glass lantern slides have become largely invisible. Yet this powerful visual medium thrilled audiences around the world with sights, sounds and spectacle on the big screen long before the invention of the cinema.

“How the lanternist bulked large on the horizon of public imagination!” Wellington, 1909.

This book brings to life the story of the magic lantern in colonial Australia and New Zealand. It describes the extraordinarily wide use of magic lantern images and technology across the colonies.

“The scenes and pictures thrown upon the canvas were alike varied and calculated to stir the sensibilities of all classes. … What with firefloods on the prairies and wonders on the great deep, with the vivid lightning.” Melbourne, 1894.

The medium’s repertoire was practically without limits: images were as likely to be culled from the canon of western high art as from a medical textbook or popular sentimental ballads and moral tales, and they ranged in aim from family amusement to serious instruction, religious evangelism and political and commercial promotion.

“Photography and the magic lantern are going to democratize sects, educate the masses and contribute to the evangelisation of the world.” W.T. Stead, 1895.

Lantern images were enjoyed by the social and cultural elite and middle and lower socio-economic audiences alike in cities, country towns and hamlets. The medium lent itself popularly and easily to vulgar jokes, sensational presentations, and sober demonstrations of scientific advances or lectures on history and geography.
From Professor Gavrilenko-Cortese
cortese@i.ua

Ladies and gentlemen!
I am happy to announce that in April of this year the first volume of our new book is coming out! This is the first edition in Eastern Europe in English for 120 years.
Number of Pages - 206. Format: A4. Languages - Russian, English

Editors
All three volumes of this publication are the catalogues of “light paintings” or slides produced in the Russian Empire in the late 19th – early 20th centuries and that were illustrative manuals for Public readings on certain topics.

The first volume is based on the materials of the Catalogue of “light paintings” of A. F. Antsiherova’s Moscow studio, edited in 1896.

This is the first time these catalogues are translated into English and illustrated by a variety of high-quality images of slides of that time. We also tried to describe in details each published image, find the source material of compositions of slides and specify their technical data and actual storage location.

The information contained in this publication is of interest to researchers, scholars and collectors, whose activity is connected with the study of the history of the “magic lanterns” and early projection of images. We disclose little-known materials for the world in which you can judge the level of artistic culture and the culture of the projection images in Russia in the late 19th – early 20th centuries.

We do hope that the presented material in this publication will help researchers in their activities and complement the pages of the world history of the development of early-screen projection of images!

From David Evans
Dear Professor Gavrilenko-Cortese

I am relieved you were able to publish it in English as well as Russian!

The illustrations look beautiful, and the catalogue pages look surprisingly similar to the ones produced over here, except of course they are in Russian!

continued next page
Illustrated Catalog of Slides continued

One of the first questions our members will probably ask will be ‘How much is it?’ in US$. Even if you haven’t worked it out exactly yet, a rough idea of the cost would be helpful.

Kind regards and congratulations on a great achievement.

David Evans
Secretary-Treasurer
Magic Lantern Society of US & Canada

dear David!
I am sending you a few more pages of the book. The cost of the book without postage is $75.

Payment for the book on its receipt by the buyer! The cost of shipping will be calculated for each buyer in addition.

Characteristics of the book:
The number of pages is 206.
Paper - high quality, coated.
More than 60 color and black-and-white illustrations.
Cover - hard, under the skin.
On the cover there is a relief gold embossing.
Handmade. Print only for individual orders!

With deep respect, Sergey.
cortese@i.ua

Heart Anatomy Slide

From: Keely Cogswell
keely.cogswell@medistimusa.com

Hello,
I was looking to purchase (or loan) a magic lantern slide with hand drawn picture of an old heart model -maybe with handwritten labels or something to this effect. It just needs to look primitive.

Also, I am looking to project this slide onto a white wall about 3 feet wide and 10 feet tall -it doesn’t need to take up the entire wall, but I am wondering if you knew of a way to project these old slides using new technology -whether it be using a new age projector and placing the plate in front of it, or whatnot.

Do you know of anyone that can help with this request?

-The reason I ask is, I have a tradeshow coming up within the Cardiac medical device industry. The tradeshow is being sponsored by an organization who is celebrating its Centennial year and with that, they are looking for items of historical significance within Cardio-thoracic surgery. I thought projecting an old picture of a primitive heart would be in line with this old time feeling and be a cool way to represent old medical history.

From David Evans

Dear Keely

Thank you for contacting us - an interesting and very appropriate use for magic lantern slides. I can visualise what you need but don’t think I have such a thing in my own collection. However, if we put your request in our next monthly E-Publication, it may well be that one of our members has just the right thing.

As far as projection goes, you could use an overhead projector with a mask on its table with an aperture the size of the slide, or you could scan the slide (at least 300 dpi), put the file on a laptop computer and connect it to a digital projector, or something along those lines. The image will, of course, be square (or round), so if it were 3 ft wide it would also be 3 ft high. On a 10 ft wall it would be fine projected near the top of it.

Let us hope someone can come up with what you need.

Regards

David Evans